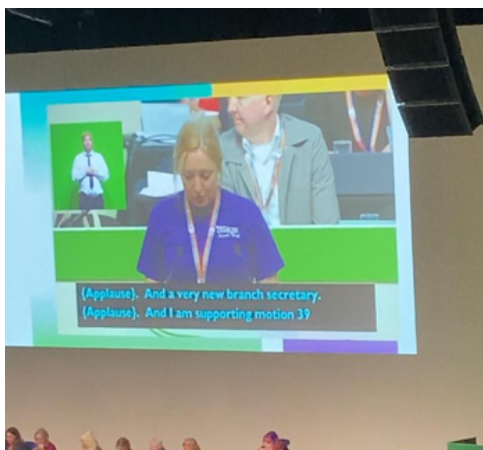


JUNE 2024



UNISON BOLTON HEALTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER



Hello and welcome to your June edition of the UNISON Bolton Health Branch Newsletter

I'm thrilled to share my recent experience from UNISON's National Conference with you that I attended with a delegation of stewards. This annual event is where we, the members, set UNISON's agenda for the year ahead! A key message this year was the importance of being 'strike ready' to ensure NHS workers are taken seriously and valued.

The next Government have to rebuild trust and confidence in the underpaid and overworked NHS staff that have felt disregarded over the past 14 years.

The conference really emphasized that UNISON is more than just a professional organisation run by officials — it's made up of each and every one of us. Every member has a role to play in supporting each other and fighting for fairness and equity at work.

I know that together, we can make a real difference and ensure our voices are heard and that if and when we need to take action, we can and we will win.

In solidarity,

Latie

Branch Secretary UNISON Bolton Health Branch



Do you work Bank shifts?

A significant issue has been brought to our attention. Some staff are being denied bank shifts if they take sick leave, therefore continuing to work with illness' such as norovirus to avoid financial difficulty. This is a serious health and safety issue, putting fellow colleagues and vulnerable patients at unnecessary risk. I have raised this issue with HR and received clarification that no one should lose bank shifts due to a genuine period of sickness absence. Your health should always come first, and you should not be penalised for it. Please let us know if you experience this, and we will ensure that policy is upheld.

Join Us

Join UNISON and help us fight for a better deal for NHS and allied workers.

You can either scan the QR code here to join UNISON online or go to www.join.unison.org.uk Alternativley get in touch with us and we will send you a paper form.



Get Involved

If you or anyone you know would like to know more about getting involved with UNISON Bolton Health Branch whether that means becoming a steward in your own section, or simply becoming an active member, then get in touch with us using the contact details below. Being an active member is incredibly rewarding and you will receive all the support necessary to get you started.



NHS pay negotiations on hold!

Wage negotiations are currently on hold due to the upcoming general election. Talks are planned to resume as soon as it is feasibly possible to do so, after July 4th.

In the meantime, we're aware that the Trust has stopped deducting for car parking fee's for our essential Band 2 staff, to avoid bringing their pay below the legal minimum/living wage. The intention is to recover this once a fair pay rise has been agreed.

UNISON's intention is that our lowest paid workers do not re pay any fee's once they receive a much needed wage increase.

UNISON have advocated for the elimination of parking payments for NHS workers across all NHS Trusts, and as a branch, UNISON Bolton Health is keen to see the scrapping of car parking charges for Trust employees full stop.

It's vitally important that members now update their contact details with us so we can ensure that you are kept up to date on your pay, but also to ensure that if a ballot is necessary, you don't miss your opportunity to vote. Please scan the QR code here or visit

www.unison.org.uk/my-unison to update your details.



NHS employers need to pay staff fairly or face strike action

UNISON urges NHS managers to ensure health workers are on the correct salary bands to prevent further strike action this year. Since 2021, we've worked with employers to secure wage rises for healthcare assistants, resulting in around £80 million in back pay to rectify years of underpayment.

Our Fair Pay for Patient Care campaign has benefitted nearly 36,000 healthcare assistants and support workers, whose salaries didn't match their complex job responsibilities. NHS guidelines state that Band 2 healthcare assistants should only provide basic care, but many have been performing more advanced tasks that warrant Band 3 pay, worth nearly £2,000 more annually. Some NHS employers have corrected this by rebanding staff and awarding back pay, while others required industrial action. Over 40 deals have been secured, including at Wirral University Teaching Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. UNISON calls on all NHS employers to pay healthcare assistants what they are owed.

Contact Us



01204 390846



admin@unisonboltonhealth.com



www.unisonboltonhealth.com